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This is a brief textbook containing the history government, doctrines, ordinances and ceremonies of the Brethren church. In many ways these folk are unique. Organized at Schwarzenau, Germany, in 1708, under the shadow of ecclesiastical power they still show the influence of this early discipline. Like the Quakers, they take no part in war, and little, if any, in politics. They settle their difficulties out of court when possible, join no oathbound or secret societies, attend no places of entertainment for pleasure, live the simple life, frugal almost to the point of severity, practice close communion, triple forward immersion in baptism, greet with the holy kiss, receive with the right hand of fellowship, wash each other's feet, shake hands and kiss at the celebration of the Lord's Supper, believe in the real presence and practice more democracy of a kind and charity than any other church.

Under the necessities of modern life the Brethren are breaking gradually from many of their ancient customs. As a class they are among the most prosperous farmers in the state. On their farms are to be found the best machinery including automobiles. Excepting their antipathy for the barber and the tailor one can scarcely recognize them among worldly folks. Much of the money spent foolishly by ordinary people is now being used by them on education, missions and charity. The book in review covers the field indicated in a plain, dignified, straightforward style. It is to be hoped that Dr. Winger will favor us with a more philosophic study of the German religious revolt beginning in the mysticism prevalent about the time of Luther and taking on many forms and names both in Germany and America. He has the solid qualities of scholarship united with the sympathy and insight to give us an invaluable aid in this difficult field of history.

P. M. NKNEMAKER

*The Rise of Methodism in the West, Being the Journal of the Western Conference, 1800-1811.* Edited with notes and introduction by WILLIAM WARREN SWEET, Professor of History, DePauw University, Cincinnati, 1920, pp. 207.

In Part I of this little book the author gives an interesting sketch of the organization of the Methodist Episcopal church and of the coming of the aggressive Circuit Rider into

the Mississippi valley. Part II is a publication, for the first time, of the journals of the Western annual conference for the years 1800 to 1811, inclusive, with valuable notes made up, for the major part, of quotations from the journal of Bishop Asbury.

Except that the title may be a little too broad, and barring an extra quotation marked on page 21, and the repetition on page 61 of the Cartwright story found at page 30, the book is well gotten up and carefully edited, and gives to the student of history an insight into the great growth of Methodism in the democratic Middle West. The author has rendered a good service to loyal Methodists, and every student of the Mississippi valley can profit by a perusal of the book.

C. J. CARPENTER

*A History of Missouri.* By EUGENE MORROW VIOLETTE, Professor of History, State Normal School, Kirksville, Missouri. (D. C. Heath & Company, Boston, New York, Chicago, 1918, xxxiii + 500.)

The purpose of the author in writing a history of Missouri was to give Missourians a knowledge of history of their own state in a single brief, interesting volume. The state itself has had a history of unusual interest and ranks high in contributing to our national development. The plan of the book is different from many histories in that it lays little stress upon events in chronological order. Little space is given to events that were strictly local, but those topics that have significance in national history are emphasized.

The author seems to emphasize the early history of Missouri as being more important, for no less than eighteen out of twenty-three chapters are given to the period from the beginning of colonization, about the middle of the eighteenth century, up to and including the Civil war. The beginning chapters are given to the times when the territory belonged to France. These are followed by the period of settling and western migration, the purchase of the territory from France and the expedition of Lewis and Clark. The struggle for admission into the Union is narrated at length, and this is followed by chapters on the Mexican and Civil wars, em-